



## **Substance Misuse Policy**

### **Dunshaughlin Community College**

The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges that affect their health and wellbeing. The School realises that the exposure to tobacco, alcohol, illegal behaviour altering substances and drugs is a reality for many young people today.

This policy applies to the entire school community; visitors to the School and workers employed by the School.

The School acknowledges that it can make a positive contribution to the prevention of substance misuse. The welfare and protection of DCC students is central to our Mission Statement.

### **Mission Statement**

**We are committed to the provision of a complete education maximising student potential to the highest possible standards through a highly committed staff in a modern well-equipped college.**

**We strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect in a happy, caring, supportive but challenging and well-structured environment.**

### **Objectives:**

The underlying objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment
- To develop, agree and implement effective, fair and transparent procedures to deal with incidences related to substance misuse.

- To inform all pertinent partners by means of established communication channels of these procedures
- To create awareness of the dangers of substance misuse among the school community

## **Dunshaughlin Community College Substance Misuse Policy**

### **Statement:**

- The school does not tolerate the use, possession or supply of prohibited drugs, drug paraphernalia, non-prescribed, behaviour altering, illegal substances or alcohol, by anyone in the school, on school trips or during any school related activities.
- Smoking on school grounds is forbidden by law and Vaping is forbidden on school grounds by direction of the Board of Management. Students are expected not to smoke/vape on their way to and from school and are prohibited from doing so on school trips or on any other school-related activity.
- Parents are required to inform the school in writing if students must take prescribed medication during school time.
- No staff member will give a student any prescribed or “over the counter” medication except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior consent of the parent.
- Students may not give another student any prescribed or “over the counter” medication.

### **Scope of Policy:**

This policy applies to the whole community of Dunshaughlin Community College with the exclusion of staff who are governed by the LMETB *Workplace Substance Abuse Policy*. The policy will apply at all times during normal school hours and during all school related activities as defined below:

- any activities on the school premises
- travelling to and from school
- representing the school or working as part of a school programme
- educational tours, fieldtrips, reward trips...etc.
- any activities organised by the school that take place offsite
- It also applies to being clearly distinguishable as a student of Dunshaughlin Community College, i.e., when wearing the school uniform.

The Board of Management of Dunshaughlin Community College affirms that students who are over the age of eighteen years must comply with this policy and that they shall have the same rights and responsibilities as are given to other students and their parents/guardians in this policy.

This policy relates to any substance that changes the way the body functions mentally, physically and emotionally. These include illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco related products, vapes, medicines, solvents etc. and all come under the general heading of drugs.

## **Management of alcohol, tobacco, behaviour altering substances and drug related – instances:**

- A student considered to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances, will be immediately put into the care of the principal, deputy principal or their nominee. The student's parents/guardians will be contacted and as a matter of urgency will be required to collect the student from school. If necessary, medical attention will be sought for the student.
- Where it is apparent that there is immediate danger to any member of the school community, the School reserves the right to suspend or remove temporarily from the school any student involved in a suspected abuse incident pending a further and complete investigation of the incident.
- The School will take all steps necessary to fully investigate and assess any abuse incident. The school will liaise with parents.
- The school will inform, liaise and consult with the Gardai regarding all school incidents involving illegal substances.
- The School will take possession of any banned or prohibited substances and drug paraphernalia associated with a drug incident, recording such items and retaining them pending completion of the investigation, unless otherwise instructed by the appropriate authorities.
- The School, at its own discretion, will liaise with any appropriate outside authority such as the HSE or other professional agencies.
- In all identified cases every effort will be made by the school to help the affected student and to seek pastoral and counselling support.
- Students who are involved in alcohol or drug related and smoking/vaping incidents are subject to the school's Positive Behaviour policy. Disciplinary measures may involve suspension and reference to the Board of Management for exclusion.
- Any student using, supplying or possessing illegal substances during the school day or on school trips will be suspended immediately and may possibly be permanently excluded.

- In the case of a student attending the school following a drug or alcohol related incident, the School reserves the right to stipulate conditions and interventions which it deems necessary to assist the student. These conditions may include external counselling, ongoing testing for drug abuse and ongoing consultations with external agencies, such as Juvenile Liaison Officer, social worker etc.

## Programme for alcohol, drug, tobacco and behaviour altering substances education:

The School supports the concept, embodied in various National Bodies, of empowering the child to make good and informed choices.

The School seeks to strike a balance between the welfare of the student(s) involved, the welfare of the other members of the school community as a whole and the reputation of the school.

The School requests parents to assist and co-operate fully with the school in dealing with any incident relating to substance use/misuse.

The School will support parents by ensuring that students have access to information on substance use/misuse.

The School endeavours to provide appropriate education programmes for all its students, teachers and parents, while accepting the need for each group to keep itself updated in regards to substance use/misuse.

The following are examples of programmes that have been provided and will continue to be provided by the School:

### **Students:**

CSPE, SPHE, Religion and Pastoral Care classes. These programmes will be tailored for each year group and will be part of the existing programmes delivered in the school.

### **Pastoral and Support Services:**

- Counselling Services in the school
- Referrals to outside agencies, such as Aisling and the HSE
- Training programmes for students
- Guest Speakers from outside agencies
- Anti-bullying programme

- SST team

These services are an integral part of the general education and are part of a supportive whole school environment.

#### **Teachers:**

- SPHE in-service training days
- Staff Professional Development days
- Briefings and preparation for Pastoral Classes
- Substance abuse prevention programme offered by the HSE or other national agencies

#### **Parents:**

- The School will provide details on current educational and information programmes offered.
- The School, in conjunction with the Parents Association will continue to provide Drug Awareness evenings and Parent Nights
- Referrals, from parents to the school, are encouraged.

### **Monitoring and Reviewing:**

The School will monitor, review and evaluate this policy on an ongoing basis.

Students will be made aware of this policy as part of their SPHE Programme and it will also be referred to by class tutors during Pastoral Care classes.

This policy document will be available to all members of the school community.

### **Ratification by Board of Management**

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on the 25th June 2024.

This policy will be implemented from 21st August 2024.



## **BOM & LMETB Ratification/Resolution** **Process for This Policy**

### **BOM Ratification**

<b><i>Date Ratified by the Board of Management:</i></b>	<b><i>25th June 2024</i></b>
<b><i>Proposed By:</i></b>	<b><i>Dane McGovern</i></b>
<b><i>Seconded By:</i></b>	<b><i>Derek Halligan</i></b>
<b><i>Signed:</i></b> <b><i>Bill Sweeney</i></b>	<b><i>(Chairperson, BOM)</i></b>
<b><i>Scheduled Date for Review of the Policy:</i></b>	<b><i>2026</i></b>

### **LMETB Ratification/Resolution of the ETB Board**

<b><i>Date of Resolution of ETB Board</i></b>	
<b><i>Signed</i></b>	<b><i>(Chairperson)</i></b>